

FIRST EDITION

MAZZINI ON THE COMMUNE.

Tragedy in St. Louis.

The Methodist Book Concern.

Charleston's Public Schools.

Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc., Etc.

ET TU, BRUTE!

Mazzini on Communism—Why he Disapproves of the Paris Programme.

In the newly-published number of the Contemporary Review there is a significant article by Mazzini on the Commune, and its aims and its proceedings.

Republicans of the present day have too much of the rebel and too little of the apostle amongst us.

We have endured so much from the de facto governments that every protest against an existing power assumes in our eyes the appearance of a sacred manifestation of liberty.

Every daring affirmation finds an echo in the hearts of our youth; not because upon mature examination it is in such a position as to merit a portion of truth hitherto unknown, but simply because it is daring.

Every spark of exceptional courage displayed in support of such daring affirmations transforms the actor into a hero in our eyes.

It is in such passionate passion and brief but fruitless enthusiasm that the individuality avenges itself for its long subjection to brute force.

Just as—about a third of a century since—the youth of that day rebelled against the pedantic rules of art, long enforced in the name of Greek and Roman models, and gave themselves up to a blind worship of the empty and immoral formula of art for art's sake.

They professed the salvation of France through the Parisian Commune, because it has raised the flag of insurrection against an unworthy Assembly without regard to the sole point of real import—the insurrectionary programme will not impede its fall.

If it do not sink, as it seems probable, in battle, it will fall through the anarchy inevitably resulting from that programme, and, as a result, the return of monarchy which fools believe to be a pledge of order, while in fact it is, wherever it is incapable of identifying itself with the progressive destiny of the nation, simply a pledge of future revolutions.

In the meantime, however, the fall of the Paris Commune, which is, in reality, merely the necessary consequence of an abnormal incident in the development of the republican enterprise, will be, to the many who have regarded it as an initiatory fact, a fresh cause of fatal discouragement among the people, of hesitation and distrust among lukewarm Liberals of the Parliamentary Left, and a new weapon furnished to the adversaries of the republican doctrine, who will argue—And what was a republican movement and its overthrow is a new proof of the impotence of the principle.

If on the uprising of Paris in the name not of a great European or national principle, but of her own local rights, our party had only remembered that a similar uprising, holy and opportune against a foreign foe, would have secured for them all that they now demand, but that such insurrection is neither holy nor opportune while that foreign foe holds the heights of Paris, and waters with the blood of Frenchmen slaughtering each other while they ignore his presence and violation of their territory—if, studying the programme of the Parisian Commune, they had proclaimed it false, harmful, and condemned beforehand to downfall, they would now have a right to say to the republican party—"Be not discomfited; the inevitable defeat of the Parisian Commune is no defeat of the republic, but of men who, consciously or unconsciously, have abandoned both republican unity and the republican mission, and are incapable of victory."

METHODIST BOOK CONCERN TROUBLE

Meeting of the Book Committee—May 27th.

At a meeting of the committee held on May 27th, a series of resolutions were adopted by a vote of 10 to 5, suspending Dr. John Laasaban from the position of Assistant Book Agent.

These resolutions also called for a speedy trial of the various charges made against the accused, and the 15th of June was set apart for that purpose.

This decided action of the committee gave promise that some definite settlement of this seemingly endless middle world would be reached, and the proceedings of the meeting of the committee to be held to-day were anxiously awaited by the members of the Methodist denomination generally.

The committee met at 10 o'clock this morning, Mr. Cyrus Brooks in the chair, Messrs. Moore and G. W. Woodruff were the only members absent. The preliminary arrangements in connection with the trial of Dr. Laasaban were adjusted, and a long discussion took place, in which many of the members participated in relation to the advisability of admitting reporters to the sessions of the court.

The committee met again at 2 o'clock this afternoon, and after debate it was definitely settled that the investigation would begin promptly at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. It is the intention of the committee to hold the present court until the entire subject at issue has been thoroughly investigated.—N. Y. Post, last evening.

SOUTHERN EDUCATION.

Charleston Public Schools Closed for Want of Funds.

The Charleston Courier of the 14th instant says:—

We regret to learn that the public schools in the city of Charleston are to be closed, because of an alleged want of funds with which to continue them.

The Grand Jury of this county, in its last report, reported that the State and county taxes, which have been collected during the past three months, amounted to \$330,000; and yet in the face of this large amount, which has been promptly paid by a well-to-do people, we are glad to find that the public schools must be closed, that the treasury is empty, and that we must provide for the education of our children as best we may.

Can it be possible that \$330,000 have all been expended in the payment of the Commissioners' checks, and that nothing but the education of our children? Can it be true that this large amount of money has been paid for the building of bridges and construction of turpicks, which have never been built or constructed, and that our little ones are denied the blessing of an education because they have been robbed of their honest dues? We want to know to whom we shall attach the responsibility of closing our city public schools. Who is the party that is responsible for the non-payment of the Commissioners' checks, and who is to be blamed for their suffering and distressed condition?

A GREAT CALAMITY AVERTED.

How the Man who was Going to Set the Pacific Ocean on Fire was Disposed of.

Some time ago a man named Gregory Sumner, of the name of a well-known chemist, was on the platform of a car on the Union Pacific Railroad at Cape Horn, and falling down a thousand feet on to the rocks below.

Sumnerfield was a man of extraordinary literary and scientific attainments, and a member of the Academy of Sciences at the Paris Convention. He was the only person on the platform with him when he was thrust down the precipice was Leonidas Parker, a Sacramento lawyer of talent and excellent reputation. He was twice tried for murder, and each time mysteriously acquitted. Recently he died, but left behind him an explanation of the whole transaction.

A short time before Sumnerfield's death he came into Parker's office, that being his first appearance in San Francisco, and a number of men and women made that he had fathomed the mighty secret of making water burn by means of a preparation of potassium, which would separate the particles and ignite the liberated oxygen, thus creating a permanent fire, and proceeding until all the particles were destroyed.

Possessed of this terrible power, he demanded \$1,000,000 to be raised in San Francisco, or he would set the Pacific Ocean on fire, and let the water burn.

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THE WAR FESTIVAL AT BERLIN.

Programme of Arrangements—A Grand and Historical Pageant.

Military and municipal preparations for the entry of the army into Berlin are in full progress. The troops detailed for this triumphal procession are the Prussian Guards, some Southern detachments, and five out of every regiment of the victorious army, in addition to which many of the colored troops will be carried before the regiments which have taken them.

At the Brandenburg gate, with its famous portal, the Emperor and the returning warriors will be received by civic deputations, and—more German—by 100 young ladies in white, strewn flowers and distributing laurel wreaths. Within the gate, in the Pariser Platz—so called after the first capture in 1813—platforms will be erected for the accommodation of no less than 15,000 persons. On the parade ground, a liquid blazed in lurid flames to the ceiling until every drop was consumed. Deeming this worth considering, he imparted the discovery, with Sumnerfield's condition, to a leading banker, a bishop, a chemist, a state university professor, a physician, a judge, and two Protestant divines, who, with himself, witnessed the experiment on a grand scale in a mountain lake nine miles from San Francisco. In fifteen minutes every drop of water in the pool was consumed, and the committee became alarmed while Sumnerfield became impatient. Only a half million could be raised at San Francisco, and something must be done for the Pacific Ocean would roll billows of flame instead of water. It was proposed to attempt subscriptions in New York, when the bishop rose and said that all that was child's play, that nothing would satisfy the wretch, and extermination was, under the circumstances, justifiable. All concluded, and Parker, who knew the gorges and windings of the Pacific Road, was chosen as humanity's avenging angel. In the conclusion of his document he says:—"I selected Cape Horn as the best adapted to the purpose, and I am not the public knows the rest. Having been fully acquitted by two tribunals of the law, I think this final appeal to my fellow-men throughout the State, and ask them confidently not to reverse the judgment already pronounced."

At their head the Emperor will have the satisfaction of passing the gate and riding down the Pariser Platz, and he will be placed in honor of the occasion. All the way, from the Tempelhof Field to the Palace they will pass between two rows of cannon taken from the enemy, and varied here and there by a number of guns and howitzers of gun-barrels and flags. No less than 3000 pieces have been placed at the disposal of the municipal authorities for this purpose. A perfect forest of French standards and eagles will precede the victorious army, in addition to which many of the colored troops will be carried before the regiments which have taken them.

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